

## **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MOBILE STATION REGISTRATION IN A CELLULAR COMMUNICATION SYSTEM**

### **Abstract of the Disclosure**

5

A communication system provides for a mobile station (MS) to pre-register with a Serving GPRS Support Node (SGSN) servicing a neighboring Routing Area (RA) that is a handoff candidate. In pre-registering with the neighboring RA and SGSN, the MS at least partially registers with the RA and SGSN, that is, at least a portion of the MS's registration information is conveyed to the neighboring SGSN serving the neighboring RA, prior to the MS being served by an associated neighboring BSS 230, for example, prior to an initiation of a handoff of the MS to neighboring BSS 230. By pre-registering with the candidate SGSN, a duration of a registration process and the corresponding service disruptions when the MS is handed off to such an SGSN are reduced.

15